

EVERETT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

PROJECT TITLE:

A briefing on the City's
2017 state legislative
agenda

<u>X</u>	Briefing
<u> </u>	Proposed Action
<u> </u>	Consent
<u> </u>	Action
<u> </u>	First Reading
<u> </u>	Second Reading
<u> </u>	Third Reading
<u> </u>	Public Hearing
<u> </u>	Budget Advisory

COUNCIL BILL #

Originating Department

Contact Person

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FOR AGENDA OF

Administration

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Initialed by:

Department Head

CAA

Council President

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Location

Preceding Action

Attachments

Legislative agenda draft

Department(s) Approval

Administration

Expenditure Required	-0-	
Budget Remaining	-0-	
Additional Required	-0-	

DETAILED SUMMARY STATEMENT:

A briefing on the City's priority requests for the 2017 state legislative session. This agenda is being shared by City staff and the City's Olympia lobbyist with lawmakers from Snohomish and Island counties, the Governor's office and various state agencies.

City of Everett – 2017 Legislative Agenda

Priority Issues at a Glance

Provide Capital Infrastructure for Community & Regional Needs

Everett will strongly support a five-county capital request by the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) to construct facilities for treatment, detox, and chemical dependency services for those suffering from mental illness and/or drug and alcohol additions. ***Specifically, Everett will actively support a potential BHO “Priority One” request toward the construction of either 16 or 32 treatment beds at the Denny Juvenile Justice Center in North Everett***

Provide Affordable Housing, Address Homelessness

Everett will actively seek ways to extend and enhance existing funding sources and add new tools to help local communities add affordable housing units and address the growing homelessness crisis. Specifically, the City will:

- Support extending and increasing the ***Document Recording Fee*** on housing transactions that funds homelessness and housing programs at the local level;
- Support a \$200 million request for the ***Housing Trust Fund*** in the 2017-19 Capital Budget;
- Work to ensure that the ***“1115 Medicaid Waiver” funds*** for supportive housing are included in the 2017-19 Operating Budget;
- Support ***new tools and options*** to address affordable housing needs;
- Support ***youth-shelter and housing-the-homeless grant-application funding requests*** through the Capital Budget by ***Cocoon House*** (Colby Avenue Youth Shelter) and ***Housing Hope*** (HopeWorks Station II).

Ensure Safe Streets and Provide Public Safety Resources

The City of Everett is strongly committed to public safety and to a mutually respectful relationship between law enforcement and the citizens of the community. One of the biggest challenges for the City is to hire and maintain a police force to take on a range of problems from mental health to property crime to drug addiction offenses. Everett will:

- Help lead efforts to ensure ***Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) training funds*** – at least enough to accommodate 540 slots at the Academy in Burien. Everett alone hopes to move 30 new officers through the Academy in the next year;
- Support initiatives to more adequately ***fund and manage mental health*** challenges, including beds and facilities that can treat and house those with mental illness.

Invest in Transportation

Everett greatly appreciates the work by the 2015 Washington State Legislature and Governor Inslee to enact the 16-year, \$16.1 billion “Connecting Washington” package, followed by the 2016 allocation of \$1.5 million toward early design and interchange planning work on the U.S. 2 Trestle. For 2017, the City will work to ensure the 2017-19 Transportation Budget:

- Includes the ***remaining \$2 million in funding for the North Broadway transit safety corridor*** being implemented by Everett Transit;
- Retains ***\$1 million in Regional Mobility Grant Program funds*** for an 800-stall parking expansion at Everett Station.

SR 526 – Re-titling Connecting Washington project to achieve better corridor-wide results: Everett appreciates the action by the 2015 Legislature, as part of the “Connecting Washington” transportation investment package, to include \$47.2 million for a State Route 526/Hardeson Road interchange. Funding for this project will begin to flow in the 2017-19 biennium, and Everett and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) have thus begun to discuss the project design, goals and parameters. Both agencies believe that a *combination* of a partial interchange and other practical design elements along the SR 526 corridor will yield a better traffic mobility result than simply building a full interchange. Everett will thus work with area legislators, Transportation leaders, and the WSDOT to re-title this project accordingly.

Expand Higher Education Access & Degrees

Everett strongly supports continued expansion and growth of the University Center of North Puget Sound administered by Washington State University (WSU). During the 2017 Session, the City will:

- Support WSU’s ***\$10.8 million Operating Budget request for the University’s medical school program***, which includes accommodations for students and internships at WSU-Everett and in collaboration with Providence Medical Center, The Everett Clinic and other local providers.

Support WSU’s \$5 million request to launch a Center for Engineering and Science in Advanced Manufacturing and Materials for engineering program offerings and classroom space in Everett, Vancouver and Bremerton. In Everett, funds would be used specifically toward adding 90 FTEs in mechanical, electrical and software engineering.

Protect and Restore “State-Shared” Revenues; Provide Local Governments with Options to Better Address Local Resource Needs

Everett urges lawmakers to look at cities and counties as partners rather than “stakeholders” – particularly by collaborating with local governments on maintaining and restoring “state-shared” revenues and by giving local governments tools to better manage resource needs. Specifically, the City will support:

- A structural ***modification in property tax statutes to tie annual growth to an inflationary index*** rather than to a 1 percent limit that prevents cities and counties from keeping up with year-to-year increases in the costs of delivering services;
- ***Gradually restoring liquor revolving account (“liquor profit”) revenues that were effectively capped*** in statute in 2012. The City supports the idea of targeting 60 percent of restored revenues toward criminal justice/public safety needs;
- Strive to ***protect state-shared revenues and existing distributions*** that are vital to helping cities meet their obligations. These include liquor, marijuana and municipal criminal justice assistance; Streamlined Sales Tax (SST) Mitigation payments; and Fire Insurance Premium Tax distributions to help the City meet the LEOFF 1 medical obligations that are part of an overall \$43 million-plus unfunded liability for LEOFF 1.

Create a New Local-Option Incentive for Economic Development

Everett will strongly support legislation being initiated by the City of Tacoma to provide ***local-option incentives*** to cities outside King County for inducing the construction of ***Class A office space***. Cities would be authorized to use their own ***local*** funds and taxing sources as the basis of the incentives. Absent such incentives, cities outside King County are at a severe economic-development disadvantage, because the cost of construction is the same as in King County, but the buildings cannot return the same high rents as in King County.

Strengthen the Public Records Act (PRA) and Make It Easier to Administer

Everett strongly supports the transparency and open government objectives underlying the PRA and strives to provide records to citizens in a timely way. But in some cases, records requests are harassment-related or result in significant resource demands without cost recovery. As a result, the City will be supportive of 2017 legislation to update the PRA, particularly with respect to:

- Providing an ***Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism*** to settle conflicts over burdensome requests;
- Establishing a ***cost recovery mechanism for processing things such as electronic records requests***;
- Making statutory changes around what constitutes an “identifiable” record or set of records for purposes of PRA responses – so that requests for “any and all” records would not be considered a legitimate request.

City of Everett – 2017 Legislative Agenda

“Support/Oppose” & “Track/Monitor”

Budget and Fiscal Matters

- Everett is prepared to **oppose** legislation that would *undermine local B&O tax collection/administration authority*, but is open to legislative initiatives growing out of the EHB 2959 Task Force that could streamline business licensing applications;
- Everett will closely **track and monitor** any legislative initiatives growing out of a study by the Office of the State Actuary into *potential merging of the Law Enforcement and Firefighters’ Plan 1 (“LEOFF 1”) and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 (“TRS 1”)*. If merger legislation or budget initiatives are introduced, the City will urge that they be structured in a way that protects underlying LEOFF 1 funding and assists cities with LEOFF 1 medical costs.

Criminal Justice/Public Safety/Fire/Courts

- Everett will **support** legislation that *makes a fourth Driving Under the Influence offense a felony*;
- Everett will **support** legislation to *strengthen penalties against serial property crime offenders*. At the same time, the City has **strong concerns** with “Justice Reinvestment Initiative” (JRI) legislation that would put new resource and law enforcement burdens on local communities;
- Everett will join other law enforcement interests in **opposing** legislation that *prohibits local governments from using data on traffic citations to help evaluate officers*;
- Everett is prepared to **support** legislation that would *better enable law enforcement agencies to terminate officers for breaches of honesty and professional conduct*;
- Everett will closely **track and monitor** a current study of how the state could potentially implement a *statewide relicensing program for those who have committed Driving While License Suspended (DWLS) offenses*. The City will want to ensure such a program does not cancel out successful relicensing and payment plans in individual jurisdictions;
- Everett will join District and Municipal Court Judges in working to **protect** *Operating Budget funding for Court Management System computer upgrades* in courts of limited jurisdiction.

Economic Development/Infrastructure

- Everett will work in collaboration with the “Aerospace Works for Washington” coalition to retain the tax incentives package that is critical to protecting and growing aerospace industry cluster jobs in Snohomish County and throughout the state.
- Everett will **support** a 2017 legislative initiative to *modify and reform the Public Works Assistance Account* so that the state retains a low-interest loan program for basic infrastructure needs throughout Washington;
- Everett will **support** *Capital Budget funding and grants for stormwater*, including initiatives to make the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) account more sustainable and less prone to revenue spikes and reductions due to fuel prices;

- Everett is prepared to **support** 2017 legislative initiatives to re-establish state funding and partnerships for economic development incentive programs such as the Local Revitalization Financing program (LRF) or the Local Infrastructure Assistance Tools (LIFT) program.
- Everett will **support** a 2017 initiative to make technical *changes and enhancements to the state laws governing Business Improvement Areas (BIAs)*;
- Everett will **support** 2017 legislation allowing local governments *expanded use of “Small Works Rosters”* to do small-scale infrastructure and public works jobs in-house.

Environment/Natural Resources

- Everett will **oppose** legislative initiatives to *extend Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) fee authority for Hydraulic Permit Approvals (HPAs) – unless such a fee extension is accompanied by appropriate limitations on WDFW authority to require permits for projects above and beyond the “ordinary high-water mark”*;
- Everett will **support** Department of Ecology requests to appropriately *fund Chemical Action Plans (CAPs)*;
- Everett will **support** legislation to *expand the “Product Stewardship” program – specifically for prescription drugs and certain types of paints*;

Land-Use/Growth Management Act (GMA)

- Everett will **support** 2017-19 Operating Budget requests by the Department of Ecology to continue providing *assistance grants for Shoreline Master Program updates*;
- Everett is prepared to **support** legislative initiatives to *continue to streamline the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)*, perhaps including efforts to expand the use of infill exemptions.

Local Government in General/Miscellaneous

- Everett will join others in **opposing** legislation that would *impose “unfunded mandates” on local governments, or seeks to pre-empt or remove local authority*;
- Everett is prepared to **support** legislative initiatives that can help *reduce costs for cities and counties, or make service delivery more efficient*.

Personnel, Pension, and other Human Resource Issues

- Everett will join the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and other local government and business organizations in **opposing** legislation that would *add new costs and requirements to employee benefit programs without accompanying funds*;
- Everett will join others in **opposing** legislation that would *expand “presumptive disease” laws and definitions* in the area of Workers’ Compensation claims;
- Everett urges the Legislature to **refrain** from bills or budget initiatives that would *result in increased employer/employee pension rates*.

